

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION

BESTWAY, INC.)
)
v.) NO. 3:09-0819
)
MICHAEL RUSH)

ORDER

On April 1, 2010, Magistrate Judge Brown referred this case to the undersigned to conduct a settlement conference. Docket Entry No. 29. By that order, Judge Brown advised that a settlement conference could not be scheduled until April 23, 2010, and the parties were to contact him if they wanted an earlier date. Judge Brown has advised that the parties have not contacted him. Therefore, a settlement conference is set on Friday, April 23, 2010, and a pre-settlement telephone conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 20, 2010. The parties shall adhere to the following procedure for filing their settlement conference statements.

- If it has not already done so, the plaintiff shall promptly forward a settlement demand to the defendant, to which the defendant shall promptly respond. The parties shall thereafter engage in any appropriate settlement discussions.
- By **4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010**, plaintiff and defendant shall deliver¹ *under seal*, directly to Ms. Jeanne Cox, Courtroom Deputy to the undersigned, or Mr. Steve Wilson or Mr. Peter Malanchuk, law clerks to the undersigned, ex parte, separate settlement conference statements which shall specify their respective settlement positions.

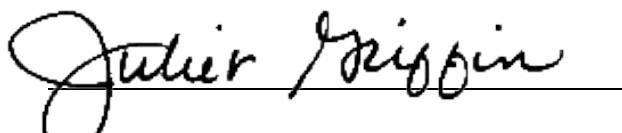
¹ The parties may fax their settlement conference statements to the Court at 615/736-7070. In the alternative, for personal delivery, the Court's address is: 756 U.S. Courthouse, 801 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203. Mailing the statement is the least efficient method for getting the statements to the Court inasmuch as mail service to this office is often delayed for a variety of reasons. If faxed, the undersigned does not need a mailed or hand delivered copy of the statement.

- Counsel for defendant shall initiate a conference call with the Court and the other counsel in this case at ***10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 20, 2010***, to discuss any matters that the Court and/or the parties may have with regard to the conduct of the settlement conference.
- Each settlement conference statement is to be furnished only to the Court and not to the other side. The statement(s) shall not be filed with the Clerk of Court, which includes electronic filing, or left in the night depository.
- Each statement shall contain a summary of the facts in the case and the parties' respective views of the law as to the theory of liability or defense.
- In their respective statements, counsel for plaintiff and defendant shall make a candid assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of both sides of the case and shall give a good faith opinion (expressed as a percentage) of each client's probable success on the merits.
- Plaintiff's statement shall contain an assessment from plaintiff's viewpoint of its damages and the strengths and weaknesses of its position.
- Defendant's statement shall contain an assessment of the plaintiff's damages, defendant's exposure to those damages, and the respective strengths and weaknesses of defendant's position.
- Nothing in the way of a jury speech shall be contained in the settlement conference statements.
- Each statement shall contain an assessment of the economic cost of proceeding to trial.
- Each settlement conference statement also shall contain a statement of counsel's best judgment as to the amount which should be paid or received by his or her client in a settlement of the case based on counsel's written evaluation and opinion and after a full discussion of the opinion with the client.
- Each statement shall include the maximum amount the defendant is willing to pay and the minimum amount the plaintiff is willing to accept, and any other terms on which the client insists.²
- Each statement shall recount, with specificity, the settlement discussions between the parties to date.

² Essentially, the parties shall provide their "bottom line." However, the parties should be prepared to negotiate further from these figures and terms during the course of the settlement conference.

- A settlement conference in this action shall be held on ***Friday, April 23, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.***,³ in Courtroom No. 764, U.S. Courthouse, 801 Broadway, Nashville.
- The representatives of the plaintiff and defendant Rush shall be present with **full settlement authority**.⁴
- Counsel for each party shall be prepared to present a **brief** opening statement (5 to 10 minutes) in the courtroom at the beginning of the settlement conference.

It is so ORDERED.


JULIET GRIFFIN
United States Magistrate Judge

³ The parties are advised that they should not schedule anything else on this date and to be prepared to spend the entire day in this settlement conference, if necessary.

⁴ The parties are advised that unless otherwise specifically ordered, failure to be present with full settlement authority could result in imposition of sanctions pursuant to Rule 16(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. For the purposes of this case, full settlement authority of the defendant is deemed to be up to the last demand made by the plaintiff. Full settlement authority also means that the representatives of the plaintiff and defendant Rush do not need authority from any other individual to enter into any settlement agreement. The parties present at the settlement conference shall have total independent authority to enter into **any** settlement agreement.